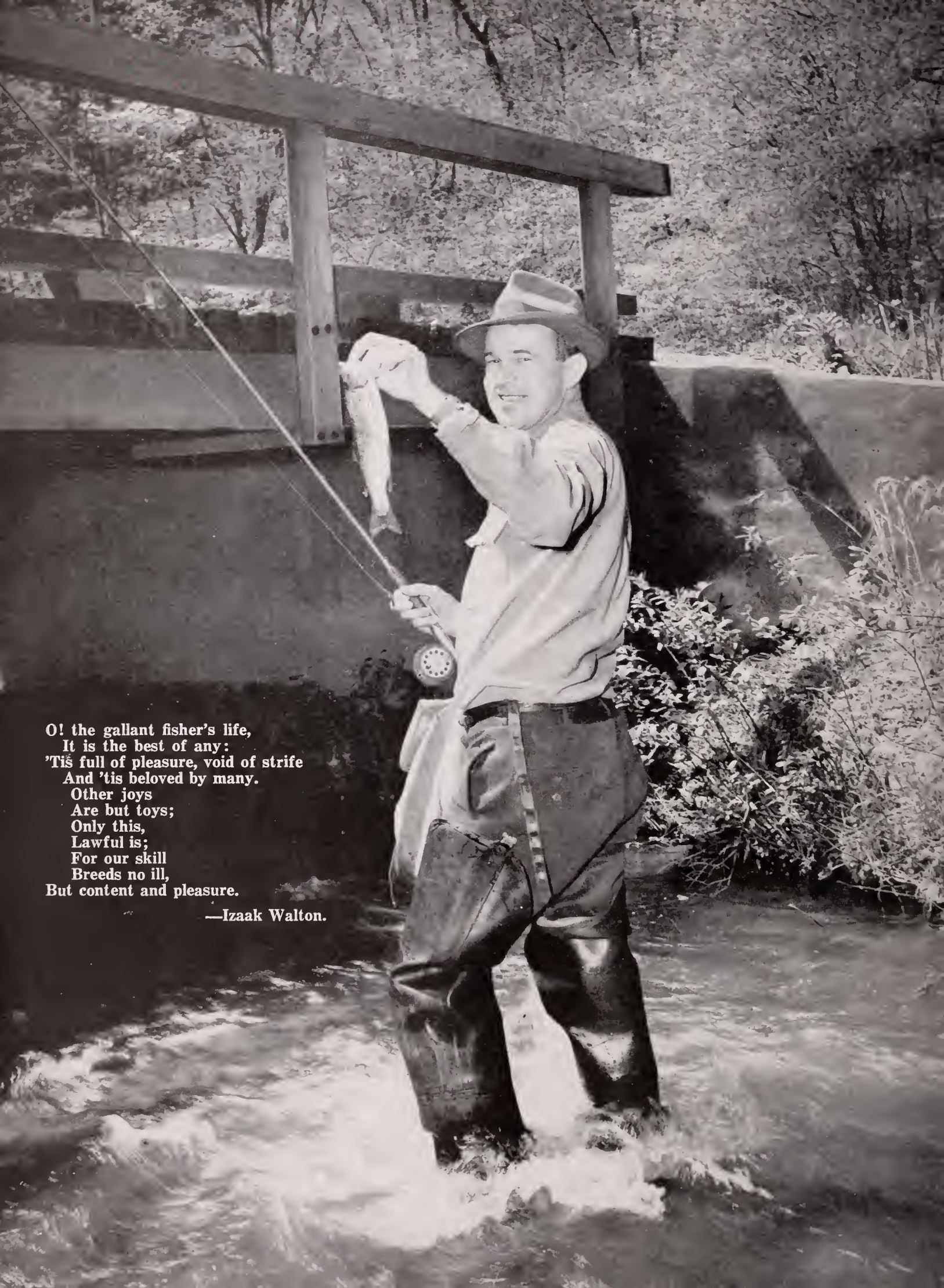


Virginia WILDLIFE

MAY, 1954



VOLUME XV Price 15 cents NUMBER 5



O! the gallant fisher's life,
It is the best of any:
'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife
And 'tis beloved by many.
Other joys
Are but toys;
Only this,
Lawful is;
For our skill
Breeds no ill,
But content and pleasure.

—Izaak Walton.

Virginia WILDLIFE

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*A Monthly Magazine Dedicated to the Conservation, Restoration, and Wise Use of Virginia's Wildlife and
Related Natural Resources, and to the Betterment of Hunting and Fishing in Virginia*

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



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In This Issue

	PAGE
Editorial—Opening Day and Afterwards	4
Living off the Land	5
Tainted Waters	8
Opportunities for Bass Fishing in Virginia	10
Virginia Wildlife Gets Top Award	13
Trout Waters	14
The Snapping Turtle	16
Insects and Wildlife	18
Early Peoples as Conservationists	20
Conservation and Private Enterprise	22
Galax—an interesting Southwest Virginia Plant	23
The Drumming Log	24
Field Force Notes	26
Wildlife Questions and Answers	27
About Trout	28

Cover

In May, the bobwhite call can be heard in the fields and woodlands everywhere. It is part of spring itself.

VSCC photo by Flournoy

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OPENING DAY and AFTERWARDS

BELOW THE bridge, along the big pool at Nash on the Tye River now brilliant in the approaching noonday sun, I counted them. Forty-one fishermen was the tally. The gurgling waters of the North and South Forks joined together at the pool and the water was up. The South Fork above was deserted—posted land above. The North Fork was open and I could see a dozen people deployed along its banks. Below the big pool ahead were a half-dozen more and, around the lower bend, many more. Around us were cars packed for hundreds of feet along three roads and in the fields. There were also four logging trucks, a jeep and two school busses.

It was D-Day, H-Hour of Opening Day! The time was 11:50 a.m.—the quiet, unbearable calm before the storm. The fishermen, elbow to elbow, had gradually claimed their posts during earlier hours. The wait had been long—too long—and their blood pressure mounted to a feverish pitch.

The best positions were at the head of the pool. Here, weeks earlier, cans of brook and rainbow trout had gone into the river and the word got around.

Now it was 11:55—five minutes to go. Several anglers were checking their watches. A heavy-set man sat on the far bank, eyed a pocket watch in hand. The dazzling sun warmed his tattered hat and he pulled the brim down over his face. Seconds tipped off. Camera in hand. I set the shutter, pulled the slide, and made a last second check of the focus. I glanced at the pool once more. As I did, a pistol shot rang out from the bank. It came as a surprise to me but not to the fishermen. To a man they flung their lines into the water. I snapped the camera shutter. Virginia's 1954 trout season was in!

What followed was bedlam. Fish came out of the water on tangled lines. "Got one," said one man. Another said the same thing. A youngster on the far side was struggling with two fish on one line. "Got one," said another—but as he pulled in, disappointment creased his face. He hauled in the worm and line of his next neighbor. A girl's scream broke through the excited crowd and she ran into the bushes after a struggling trout.

For several minutes the excitement continued, but soon the trout came out less often. By 1 o'clock the fish that remained were somewhat scattered and the fishermen began to scatter themselves. By sundown the

bulk of the anglers was gone: some with their limits, others with 2 or 3 fish, others with only excuses.

What happens on Opening Day, of course, isn't trout fishing. The real fishing begins after the trout have been "put down" and the novice has had his fill of either easily caught trout or disappointed hours. This usually takes anywhere from a couple of days to a couple of weeks. It is then that the refreshing sport of trout angling really comes into its own.

For those wanting to enjoy trout in the classic sense we recommend the later days—days when the trout are wiser and faster and few and far between, when the man who wades the stream must work for his fish: when quietness and stealth and artistry are the very soul of trout fishing.

It is after opening day that the way of a trout angler can best be described. It is then that his nomadic blood begins to stir, like the oozing sap in the sugar maple tree that precedes the leaf in the spring, and sets his gypsy-roving feet over the cold river courses of the mountains from Front Royal to Mount Rogers.

Why does the veteran of mountain brooks like trout fishing? What is the unfathomable reasoning that works in the mind of a man who gets up at all hours of the night to journey forth in the dawn after a six-inch speckled fish?

Trout fishermen—real trout anglers—don't care. Enough reason it is that they go. Like the plaintive whistle of the bobwhite in the spring fields, so too comes the plaintive call of the rushing stream in the hemlocks and he must go.

Your humble scribe answers to the call of trout waters for a half-dozen reasons: one because of the beauty of the trout itself. No other fresh water fish that swims has the color and the line and the perfect proportion of the brook trout. Another reason is its fighting qualities; another for where the trout lives—cold waters, the dogwood-studded mountains, the laurel and rhododendron country.

Your editor answers to the call of trout brooks because they are trout brooks, different, picturesque, earthy—because they harbor a fish that is fastidious in habits and it takes time and skill to outwit him—because trout in its highest sense is the poetry of all recreation and the moving symphony of all angling.

—J. J. S.

of every man, woman and child in the town which seemed so fair and fortunate, came to the Prophet Elisha. "Behold," cried the members of the City Council—"Behold, the situation of the city is pleasant but its waters are tainted!" That is the accusing consciousness now in America the beautiful, as we look out upon many of our broad streams, or gaze down at the swift currents from some point of vantage along a spanning bridge! The waters are tainted.

The biblical story declares that the Prophet healed the poisoned waters by casting salt into the spring. In that incident is mirrored a fundamental service of salt. Were it not for the salty ocean the pollution of our rivers would soon turn them into dead seas. One authority has declared: "If the sea were to lose its saltiness, the earth would soon become uninhabitable." The salt sea receives the tainted waters and, by its magic alchemy, they are sweetened and cleansed. That is not only a saving fact regarding the earth. It is a parable about life on the earth.

A river is the symbol of all the beautifying, satisfying, fertilizing forces that enrich human life as they pour themselves through all its relationships. Yet there is not a stream that flows through the land of man's dreams, desires, activities, expressions and aspirations which cannot become poisoned and polluted. That is true of the river of music, of literature, of art, of sport, of government, and even of religion. Music savoring of the jungle may arouse the lowest instincts. Literature which sells out to salaciousness pollutes the imagination. Art may pander to the lewd. Sport whose chief aim is to win, rather than to excell, destroys rather than builds high character. Public posts, as is painfully evident in the past and current scandals, can be used by sinister practices to feather the nests of the officeholder rather than to further the interests of the

people he has sworn to serve. Democracy's chief menace always is that the waters of freedom shall become contaminated. And, surely, the ages prove that the stream of religion can be saturated with incongruous corruption.

Now, what can be done for the cleansing of these rivers flowing through the crowded cities of our modern life? It is significant to remember that the ancient prophet did not denounce the poison which tainted the water. He healed the water by putting in cleansing salt. What the corruption of our day needs is not so much a piece of our mind as a bit of our hearts. "Practicing the Presence" by Brother Lawrence, as he worked in his monastery kitchen, and "The Imitation" by Thomas a Kempis, as he meditated in his cloistered cell, have done more to heal the waters of life than the denunciations of all the fiery reformers put together.

You cannot save a city or a society by scolding it. One cannot help his age much by denouncing it. The stream of public life cannot be purified by screening out the things that defile. There must be poured into the hearts and minds of the people some gracious and potent influences that will sweeten and strengthen and save. That is exactly what Christianity is sent and set to do.

Legislations can do something about keeping poison out of food and out of streams. But police are never the final cure for pollution. A prophet greater than Elisha, who healed the tainted waters, One who knew by bitter experience that even religion can degenerate into a racket and its streams become corrupt, declared that only the salt of a pure heart will suffice to heal the poisoned streams of human life. Never did that Supreme Teacher utter anything more pertinent to His followers across all the centuries than "Ye are the salt of the earth." Only by being salt in ourselves can we as individuals become part of the solution, rather than a part of the problem, of this tainted age.

*How beautiful the water is!
To me 'tis wondrous fair—
No spot can ever lonely be
If water sparkle there;
It hath a thousand tongues of mirth,
Of grandeur, or delight,
And every heart is gladder made
When water greets the sight.*

—MRS. E. OAKES SMITH



Virginia has over 100,000 acres of lake and pond water and over 1,500 miles of bass streams.

Opportunities for **BASS FISHING** in Virginia

By JOHN H. GWATHMEY

Rod and Gun Editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch

OPPORTUNITIES for bass fishing are outstandingly abundant in Virginia, and the black bass is one of the most sought-after of all fresh-water game fish. There is hardly a point anywhere in the state that the angler isn't within easy reach of good bass water, and much of the bass fishing is superlatively good.

Whether it is the fisherman's preference to use a boat, wade, or sit on the bank, there are bass in all of Virginia's waters except in the icy streams of the mountains. These tumbling waters are given over to brook and rainbow trout. Below the cold-water line of all the streams there are bass. In hundreds of lakes and ponds and in the vast expanses of fresh water backed up by the tides in eastern Virginia, there are bass lying in wait for the angler's lures.

A glance at a map reveals how blest is this state in the numbers of fine streams and their tributaries pitching down from the highlands. There are bass in every one of them.

There are three kinds of black bass in Virginia, the smallmouth, largemouth, and spotted bass. The last are indigenous to those streams in the western part of the state which are a part of the Mississippi watershed. The spotted bass has been introduced to a limited extent in eastern Virginia. Prime objectives of bass fishermen, however, are the smallmouths of the upland areas and their lusty cousins the largemouths, which find the waters of eastern Virginia particularly congenial.

Where to fish for bass? There are so many places that the first question arising is whether the angler wishes to wade or paddle the colder stretches for small-

mouths, or would rather follow the more leisurely sport of angling for largemouths in more placid waters. The Game Commission makes careful distinction between temperatures suited to these two principal members of the bass family and does its stocking accordingly. Spotted bass are not raised at the hatcheries.

A stranger to the state can pretty well size up the areas where there will be fishing for smallmouth or largemouth bass by consulting a map and taking topography into account. If it is the smallmouth he seeks, he can go pretty much anywhere in the uplands. Large streams and small, to say nothing of the upland lakes, all abound in smallmouth bass. In addition to the native stocks, two big hatcheries turn out tons of smallmouth bass which are annually placed in these waters.

The Shenandoah River has been famous for its smallmouth bass fishing in both its north and south forks. That fishing in some stretches of the river was destroyed by industrial pollution is too true, but this is being rapidly corrected, and the Shenandoah is coming back into its own as a smallmouth bass stream throughout practically its entire length.

The beautiful clear section of the South Fork above Luray is particularly interesting. Here anglers with good legs wade, or they use boats poled by guides who know the tricks. Some simply drift down with the current in flatboats, or in canoes, casting to the shore lines or dunking minnows, hellgrammites or madtoms.

The North Fork of the Shenandoah is equally attractive. So are many of the flowing streams west of the mountains. The Holston, the Clinch, the Bullpasture, Maury, the Jackson, the tributaries of the New River and

a great many other lesser streams afford excellent smallmouth bass fishing. So do the lakes in the state parks and the great power impoundment on New River known as Claytor Lake.

East of the Blue Ridge, smallmouth bass fishing is equally good. The upper waters of the Rappahannock, such as the Rapidan, of the James and others of Virginia's major rivers are ideal for the smallmouth and these great game fish are found in satisfactory numbers.

A fact that would hardly be suspected is that James River, even opposite the city of Richmond, affords some of the best smallmouth bass fishing in the state. While the water becomes excessively warm in summer, it is constantly aerated by pitching over the big boulders in the bed of the river, and the smallmouth bass thrive and multiply as readily as they do in the more typical smallmouth waters.

Virginia is even more celebrated for its largemouth bass, which grow to prodigious size. The ideal habitat for these fish is in clear ponds and streams of the tidewater section. Roughly speaking, this is east of a line drawn through Washington and Richmond, almost due north and south, marking the falls of the rivers, where the tides cease to ebb and flow.

The fertile soils, pure waters and sandy and gravelly bottoms, necessary for successful spawning, make this region a heaven for *Micropterus salmoides*. With myriads of little fishes and aquatic insects in the water, the largemouth bass has things his own way among predatory species and has little competition for food from other large fish.

Taking into consideration that there are largemouth bass in all of the eastern Virginia streams, small and large, in 86 public ponds that are annually stocked with adult bass from the hatcheries, and in impoundments so large that they are almost like miniature oceans, a man can find just about any kind of largemouth bass fishing which is to his liking.

Miles of the Potomac were once great bass waters until pollution from the nation's capital destroyed so much of the wild celery, which also supported thousands of canvasback ducks. But the creeks emptying into the Potomac still afford fine bass fishing. Gunston Cove, just outside of Alexandria still is good. Occoquan, Chopawamsic, Aquia and a number of other creeks afford excellent largemouth fishing.

The lower reaches of the Rappahannock have never been particularly good, for some reason, but such creeks as Cat Point, Occupaia, Hoskins and Piscataway, emptying into the Rappahannock have been celebrated for their bass fishing. There is plenty of good bass fishing in the valley of this great tidal river.

Coming further south to the York River watershed, the Mattaponi and Pamunkey, main tributaries, both are famous for their bass fishing. While there are lots of bass in the feeder streams such as the South Anna and Little Rivers, best bass fishing in both the Matta-



This beautiful string of smallmouths came from the James River below Boshers' Dam near Richmond.

poni and the Pamunkey is in those stretches of the rivers lying opposite the celebrated old duck and sora marshes.

Dragon Run, which pitches over into the tidal Piankatank, has always been a good bass stream. The Chickahominy, largest tributary of the lower James, is one of the most famous largemouth bass streams in the country. This great clear stream flowing through hills and marshes that still have all the earmarks of wilderness country, is full of bass, and so are its creeks, such as Diascund, Gordon's, Yarmouth and Morris creeks.

Going still further into the southeastern area of the state, there is excellent bass fishing in the Blackwater, Nottoway, Meherrin and Northwest rivers. All of this stream fishing is just a beginning for the angler whose quest is the largemouth bass. It should be remembered that the water backed up by the tides in most of these rivers is fresh water.

If one should prefer the large lakes, he should not overlook Lake Smith, in Princess Anne County, which has yielded prize winners in the national bass contests almost every year. There are other excellent bass waters in that vicinity besides Back Bay, so famous for its bass fishing that it will have special mention.

(Continued on Page 23)

LIVING OFF THE LAND

(Continued from Page 7)

fruit, *Rhus hirta*. Press the fruit and put in water, add sugar, ice, and presto—poor man's lemonade but with a royal flavor. Both poison sumac and poison ivy have white fruit so they would not be confused with the red staghorn fruit.

Most people know that black walnuts, butternuts, pecans, and several species of hickories are useful. Generally the same people will pass by the hazelnut, *Corylus sp.*, or filbert thinking it just another bush. This fine nut is a worthy rival to any American species.

There are beechnuts, *Fagus*, in Virginia but the squirrels monopolize the crop. In places, that past favorite of all nuts, the American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, still is making its last stand, putting out a crop of nuts on its sprouts. The chinquapin, *Castanea pumila*, reasonably plentiful in Virginia, makes a good substitute for the chestnut. Acorns from the white oak are good. White oak acorns, *Quercus alba* and others, can be roasted and then ground into meal. The results, mixed with flour, make first rate flapjacks.

MISCELLANEOUS

Because of their exquisite flavor and many uses it's imperative to mention mushrooms which are edible fungi. The number of species in Virginia is unbelievable. Do not handle any fungi you are not sure of. While books are fine to impart a basic knowledge of fungi, nothing can beat a field trip with an expert. It's best to be positive of four or five species and then pick only these. Once you are sure of your identification, mushrooms are a real delicacy. Four mushrooms easy to identify and of excellent eating qualities are the meadow mushroom or pink bottom, *Agaricus campestris*, chanterelle, *Cantharellus cibarius*, edible morel, *Morchella*, and the boletus, *Boletus edulus*. The meadow mushroom is the king of all. It is wonderful to eat and makes fine catsup.

And learn to identify puffballs as all species are good. They should be gathered when pure white inside. Skin, roll in egg yolk and cracker crumbs and fry. All the fungi I've mentioned come up readily in wet weather and in greatest number during the late summer. The morel is an exception and comes up several months earlier. The puffballs and meadow mushrooms like open pastures, while the other species are associated with the woods and forests. Use mushrooms immediately after picking. It's best to clean mushrooms by wiping

them off with a damp cloth. If you put them in water the gills will absorb so much moisture that it makes them difficult to work with.

Everybody knows about game birds and animals. There are many edible species outside this category which are equal in eating qualities. Raccoon, woodchuck and opossum, roasted and basted with white wine make meals that will stick to your ribs. Remove the "kernels" from beneath their forelegs when present. Roast these animals on a rack or in a drip pan to remove their excess fat. We prefer to parboil the animals first.

Muskrat is really tops and people who enjoy dark meat will find beaver to their liking. A meal of fried muskrat livers is tops. Those of you who like chicken livers will rate muskrat livers equal. If you want to impress your wife's rich uncle, try this: remove the bone and make a fillet of several hind muskrat legs. Soak in sweet milk until it turns sour; drain, salt and pepper, dredge with flour, and fry in deep fat until golden brown. Man! After that, you're sold for life.

Do you know a stream that contains big fresh water crayfish? You do? Good! Gather a pail of the biggest crawdads when their shells are hard and drop in boiling water just as you would lobsters. Peel and eat the tails only, with salt, pepper and butter. Mountain lobsters—that's what we call 'em.

And frog's legs. There are many varied ways to cook them. We find that if they are cooked exactly like fried chicken, with the least possible trappings and spices, they retain their own delectable flavor best.

Some unprotected and harmful birds make remarkably good eating. A mess of starling breasts in a pie isn't far removed from quail or doves. Look up the list of non-protected birds in Virginia and concentrate on those which are mainly seed and grain eaters.

By now I hope you have a picture of nature's storehouse so bountifully stocked in Virginia. The number of food species is inexhaustible and barely touched.

Good advice to those seeking a share in the abundant reservoir of wild foods is: learn to identify a variety of species, and, be *positive* about your identification. This information may be obtained from books, but better still from persons qualified to impart such knowledge. Learn in what seasons your favorite species are most palatable. Find several locations for each of your most desired foods since they often vary in abundance from year to year. Don't be afraid to experiment once you are positive your gathered foods are edible. Remember there are many ways to prepare most wild foods. Last, but most important, cast off notions of modern living that food must come out of a can, home garden or market.

Virginia Wildlife Gets Top Award

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE, the official publication of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, has been picked by the Izaak Walton League of America, as the best state conservation magazine in the nation, I. T. Quinn, executive director, has announced.

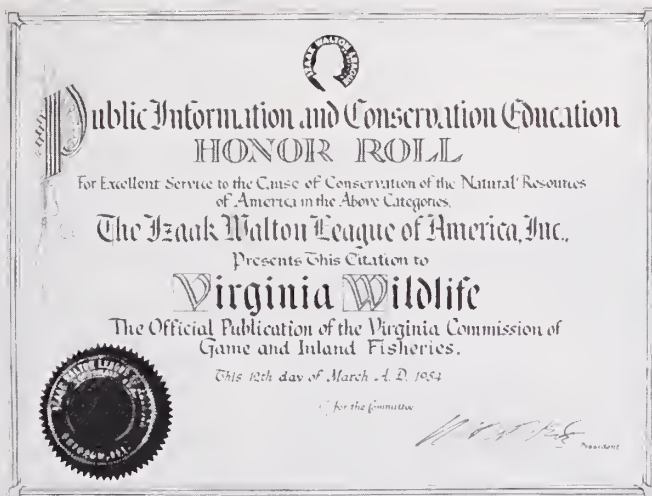
Art Thompson of the Norfolk Chapter of the League and member of the national executive board made the presentation, an honor roll certificate, to Director Quinn at the Commission offices in Richmond recently.

"Your state magazine," said Mr. Thompson in his presentation, "won this top award solely on its own merits

and entirely on a basis of make-up, appearance, consistent editorial policy and for excellence to the cause of conservation of natural resources of America."

All of the publications of the 48 states were reviewed and judged by a committee of impartial judges and Virginia's magazine was finally picked as the most outstanding. Six other states, including North Carolina and New York, were among the finalists.

The award committee made its deliberations at the recent Chicago convention of the Izaak Walton League, but the presentation ceremonies took place in Richmond on March 23rd.



Top left: The honor roll certificate award.

Lower left: Art Thompson, member of the national executive board, presents award to Commission director I. T. Quinn.

Top right: The award being made at Chicago Izaak Walton League of America convention.

Lower right: Commission staff is pleased at award.



TYE RIVER in Nelson County is extremely popular on opening day. This big pool at Nosh where the North and South Forks meet is a favorite spot.



STONEY CREEK in Giles County is reworking. Big Stoney is open to public; Little Stoney is private.

TROUT

Here they are—glimpses of only a few stocks 135 trout streams annually cover. Federal government adds to the stocking.

BULL PASTURE RIVER in Highland County is big water with big trout.



PINEY RIVER in Amherst is popular with Lynchburg sportsmen.



TUMBLING CREEK in Washington County attracts varied Waltonians.



WHITE TOP LAUREL fishing is a joy to the sportsmen.



Galax - an interesting Southwest Virginia Plant

By BILL KYLE

THE PERFECT LEAF, symbol of love, lends a romantic tinge to the many descriptions of the beautiful heart-shaped leaf known as galax.

Native of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, and found in no other part of the world, galax has a rare history among the evergreens of our country. Widely used as a decorative background for floral arrangements, it has found its way to Canada, Australia and Europe.

In the recent California tournament of roses, it formed the background for one of their beautiful floats.

Chosen by royalty, these leaves of humble origin were used at the coronation of King George V of England.

In New York City, Longchamps restaurants have originated a striking window display using galax, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Stemming from red fibrous roots, the leaves vary in size from 2 to 5 inches in diameter. In early spring,



slender spikes of tiny white flowers, standing sentinel over the low-growing waxy green leaves, present a picturesque scene of sylvan beauty.

In autumn the leaves assume the color of bronze and varying shades of reddish tones, creating an intricately designed carpet of rustic splendor for the autumnal colorama of the highlands.

A secret processing of the leaves retains their leathery texture and natural beauty indefinitely, making their value inestimable for decorative purposes.

Deriving its name from the leaf is the city of Galax, Virginia, located near mile post 217 on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway that winds its way along the top-most peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

BASS FISHING

(Continued from Page 11)

Lake Cahoon and Lake Prince, both sources of water supply for the city of Suffolk, are big lakes of beautiful water and full of bass. The Newport News water supply lake, often called Harwood's millpond, on U. S. Route 17, also is big water affording excellent bass fishing. Same can be said of Chicahominy Lake, a grand body of bass water in the heart of the state, where there are plenty of boats, and where bass fishing is excellent.

Back Bay is unique in many respects and is famous for its bass fishing.

Its comparatively shallow water, matted with grasses on which waterfowl feed, affords tremendous quantities of bass food. If bass supplies become depleted in any section of the bay, others move in to take their place. It is a particularly attractive area for casting to the weed beds and tiny sloughs.

All over the typical largemouth areas of the state there are ponds open to public fishing, 86 of which, as was pointed out, are regularly stocked with bass and the lesser species of fish on which bass feed. There are eight state parks where camping is encouraged and where there are lakes for public bass fishing. There

are five nice lakes in the state forests.

An angler can go in almost any direction and find one of the many public ponds, either owned and controlled by the State Game Commission, or stocked under agreement that the owners will allow public fishing and provide boats for the convenience of anglers. All of these are in addition to the many beautiful ponds which are not open to the public but are controlled by fishermen's clubs or by private individuals.

If all these and many others were not plenty of places to go to suit the most avid bass fishermen, in recent years the Buggs Island impoundment, with its 51,200 acres under water, the Philpott Lake and the South Holston impoundment, a part of the TVA development, have added vast stretches of new and interesting bass fishing waters to the already-existing abundance.

Regulations permit year-round black bass fishing in all the public impoundments of the state, and in all the public streams east of the Blue Ridge except a few which are regularly stocked with trout. For waters in other categories, bass season opens June 1, and closes the following March 15.



QUINN WINS NASH CONSERVATION AWARD

I. T. Quinn, executive director of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, has received a special certificate of award from the Nash Foundation for his outstanding contributions in the field of wildlife, as head of the Game and Fish Conservation Department for 17 years in Alabama, for the chairmanship of the National Wildlife Legislative Committee from 1934 to 1939, for his presidency of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the presidency of the American Fisheries Society, presidency of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, and Director of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries of Virginia during the past eight years.

While chairman of the National Committee, Quinn was instrumental in helping to guide the Pittman-Robertson Bill to successful enactment into law. This act, named for U. S. Senator A. Willis Robertson of Virginia as co-sponsor with Senator Pittman of Nevada, transfers the excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition from the Federal Treasury to state game departments.

WALTER GRESH PROMOTED

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that Walter Gresh has been made regional director of Region Four for the Service, with headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia. Walter has been assistant director of that region since 1948. Mr. Gresh has had broad technical and administrative experience in many parts of the southeast and is a member of the Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters.

CULPEPER FRESHMAN WINS SEED PATCH CONTEST

Julian Aylor, 14-year-old Culpeper High School freshman won first prize—a double-barrel shotgun—in the second annual seed patch contest sponsored by the Culpeper Game and Fish Protective Association. The presentation was made by J. B. Hudson, president of the association.

Second, third and fourth prizes were won, respectively, by Wayne Smith, Bobby Wolfrey, and George Stover, who received, in the same order a .22 rifle, a hunting coat and a hunting vest.

The purpose of the contest is to increase wildlife in the county by encouraging the planting of winter food.



Seed Patch Contest winners in Culpeper County: George Stover, 4th, Bobby Wolfrey, 3rd, Wayne Smith, 2nd, and Julian Aylor, 1st prize winner.

WISCONSIN'S ERNIE SWIFT TO FEDERAL POST

Ernest F. Swift, director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department for the past seven years and architect of many of that state's modern wildlife programs, has been appointed assistant chief of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Swift accepted the federal appointment as of March 15th and in his new position will be one of two top aides to Director John L. Farley.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Harvey D. Sandstrom of Duluth, Minnesota, is the artist who drew the winning design, a black and white watercolor featuring two ring-necked ducks "slanting in" for a landing, which will be used on the 1954-55 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced the award in the fifth annual "duck stamp" competition. This will be the 21st in the Federal Duck Stamp series.

New Jersey artist Douglas R. Munn's picture of pintails was the runner-up and third place went to Charles Liedl of New York for his design of blue geese. Mr. Liedl was last-year's runner-up with his picture of old squaw ducks. There were 87 contestants, many of whom submitted more than one design, with 32 states and Canada represented.

Mr. Sandstrom's ambition since boyhood has been to become a wildlife artist. When he was growing up, his principal interests were hunting, fishing, collecting animal skins, and dabbling in amateur taxidermy. A graduate of the Minneapolis School of Art and Navy veteran of World War II, he is now a commercial artist in Duluth. He spends his spare time making wildlife studies, painting landscapes in the Minnesota woods and marines of Lake Superior.

Sold at \$2. at post offices, the duck stamp proceeds help finance the Federal waterfowl and law enforcement programs, which are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Everyone of 16 who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have on his person the current stamp with his signature written across the face.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHES NEW GAME REGULATION POLICY

Of 78 bills relating to wildlife which were introduced during the recent session of the General Assembly, 39 bills of the local and 31 of a general nature originated in the House of Delegates and eight general and one local originated in the Senate.

Members of the Game and Fish Committee of both the House and the Senate realize that all this legislation is not necessary since adequate authority has been given the Game Commission to enact regulations which take care of nearly all fish and game needs.

House Joint Resolution #72 was passed, establishing a policy for the General Assembly not to introduce any bills relating to game and fish in the future until the Commission has been given an opportunity to handle the matter by regulation. It is believed that if this policy is carried out, it will mean a great saving of time for the general Assembly and enable the Commission to manage more adequately the wildlife resources of the Commonwealth.



"Shift that chew and let's lean the other way awhile."

NEWPORT GUN CLUB COMPLETES SAFETY COURSE

Joseph G. Buntin, principal of the Newport High School, sends us word that the Newport Gun Club has completed the N.R.A. safety course and is about to begin another one.

The group, composed of boys from the Newport High School in Giles County, is sponsored by Mr. Buntin who is also the certified N.R.A. instructor for the safety course.

The N.R.A. Ranger Program is also in operation and very popular with members of the club. Before the Ranger patch is issued, boys must get a score of three bullseyes out of ten shots at 50 feet.

SENATOR ROBERTSON'S COMMENT ON DAMS

A. Willis Robertson, U. S. Senator from Virginia, makes the following comment on the subject of dam building and flood control in *Outdoors Unlimited*:

"It should be of interest to all conservationists that we now have a 'new look' at the over-all subject of high dam building in the name of flood control, as well as in the operations of the defense establishments. For some years, as you know, as a member of the Subcommittee on Civil Functions of the Senate Appropriations Committee I have been battling without too much success the Army Engineer program of water impoundment. Naturally, it gratifies me that the new Chief of Engineers and his assistants, who are responsible for what is termed the civil functions of the Army, are now approaching their problems from a conservative standpoint. They are applying a more stringent test in computing the ratio of benefits to cost and they are reclassifying over eight billion dollars of stream construction work, which has been authorized by the congress but for which no appropriation has yet been made. They are breaking down those projects into three categories:

1. Those that clearly meet the new test.
2. Those that need more study.
3. Those that are definitely not desirable.

Over two billion dollars of projects will definitely fall into the last category, which the Engineers will recommend the Congress to repeal."

COMMISSION RECEIVES SECOND SHIPMENT OF MOUNTS

Continuing its program of acquiring scientific wildlife mounts for its Hearing Room showcases, the Commission has received a second large shipment of wildlife specimens from Arthur B. Fuller, taxidermist, of Jamesville, Virginia.



Arthur B. Fuller (left) and I. T. Quinn look over new consignment of mounts.

Included in the latest consignment of specimens were a whistling swan, a common loon, two barn owls, a red-shouldered hawk, scaup duck, sparrow hawk, muskrat, hooded merganser, and a cub red fox.

The Commission has now acquired over 30 scientific and accurately prepared wildlife mounts in addition to 150 bird study skins.

FISH IN THE NEWS

In his column, "Of Woods and Waters," in the *Richmond News-Leader*, J. B. Jackson reported a 12-pound bass caught from Catspoint Creek. David Boland was the lucky angler.

Despite rumors that the rockfish is growing scarce in Virginia waters, Jackson says not only that it isn't so, but that "One doesn't have to travel any farther than a lower Chickahominy landing for good rock-fishing." As evidence, he cites the case of Richmonder Paul Sampson who trolling on the Chickahominy, using a barracuda spoon with pork rind, caught seven rockfish, weighing a total of 49 pounds, in one day. Three of the fish weighed more than 10 pounds each.



More Than A Mouthful

J. M. Ittner, deputy warden of Chesterfield County, brought into the Game Commission offices in Richmond a pickerel 16 inches long which had died trying to swallow a bream a quarter its own size.

C. W. Stigall found the fish, still struggling, floating in the water of his pond in Chesterfield County. The pond was built about a year ago and stocked by the Department of Agriculture.



16-inch pickerel trying to swallow a 4-inch bream.

Kellner Contacts 1,000 Fauquier County Children in One Day

In observance of National Wildlife Week, Mr. Clay Brittle, president of the Fauquier County Game and Fish Protective Association, and Game Warden J. L. Douglas, arranged conservation programs for six high schools in their county.

Special Services Officer William C. Kellner, of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, had charge of carrying out the programs and contacted about a thousand children in one day.

Kellner showed the Game Commission film, "Operations Wildlife," at each of the schools and talked about ten minutes, stressing the Governor's proclamation on Wildlife Week in Virginia, the Boy Scouts' 1954 theme of conservation, and the seed planting program.

Sportsmen's Radio Program in Harrisonburg

Word has been received from Rockingham County that the Rockingham Game and Fish Association sponsors a 15-minute radio program each week over the Harrisonburg Radio Station WSVB. The program is called "Hook and Trigger Round Table," and is presented every Saturday at 6:15 P.M. It consists of questions submitted by the listeners and answered by various "experts" who are available, often U. S. Forest Service or Game Commission personnel, as well as one or two members of the Association.

The program is sponsored commercially by a local firm, Western Auto Stores.

Antlerless Deer Season Proposed in Ten Western Counties

More lenient regulations concerning the hunting of deer in ten counties west of the Blue Ridge have been proposed by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, according to Executive Director I. T. Quinn.

It has been proposed that antlerless deer (either sex) be legal game on the last day of the season in the counties of Frederick, Highland, Warren, Page, Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta and Bath and that they be taken from the Glades area in Wise and Scott counties during the deer season, on a permit basis.

Commission game technicians report that deer in the ten above counties have occupied most of the suitable range, that some areas show the effects of overbrowsing and that crop damage has reached a point where herd control is advisable.

Frank's Delivery Windy and Fast Delivery Boy Winners in VAFTA Spring Trials at Hawfield

The 31st annual spring trials of the Virginia Amateur Field Trial Association were held at Hawfield farm, near Orange, on March 15, 16, 17 and 18th.

All dogs for these field trials must be owned and handled by members of the association. However, since VAFTA is one of the notable field trial groups in the country, entries came also from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D. C., North Carolina and South Carolina.

Winners in the puppy stake were: first, Frank Delivery Windy, jointly owned by Herring and Hancock of Washington and Scotland, North Carolina, respectively; second, Hollybourne, Jr., owned by S. L. Froelich of New York City; and third, Hard Rock, belonging to Clarence Edwards of Chatham, Virginia.

In the Winners' All-Age class, Fast Delivery Boy, owned jointly by A. V. Holmes and Harold Crane, both of Washington, D. C., was first. Hollybourne Pilot, owned by S. L. Froelich of New York, placed second.



First place Puppy Winner: Franks Delivery Windy, with co-owner Waverly Hancock (Mr. Herring other owner). Dog developed by Hunter Grove.

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Wildlife Questions and Answers

Ques.: Are there any laws prohibiting the gigging of frogs at any time?

Ans.: There is no law as to season or bag limit, but a hunting license and permission from landowners must be secured.

Ques.: Can a hawk be used for the sport of falconry in the state of Virginia?

Ans.: The eagle is protected by Federal regulations, but the hawk, in the state of Virginia by statute, is classified as a predator and can therefore be used in falconry.

Ques.: Is a fishing license necessary for dipping?

Ans.: No, a general fishing license is not required, but it is necessary to get a dip net permit which costs \$1. and is good only in the county for which it is issued.

Ques.: If an owl cannot move its eyes in their sockets, why is it that owls seem to have such a wide range of vision?

Ans.: Although it is true that an owl cannot move its eyes in their sockets, it is able to rotate its head in a large arc of 273 degrees which accounts for its area of vision.

Ques.: Are Virginia Game Wardens required to answer a call concerning dogs damaging gardens, flowers, etc.?

Ans.: Game Wardens do not have to answer such calls unless they are required to do so by county or city ordinance.

Ques.: Why does the woodcock dig its bill into the mud?

Ans.: By driving its three-inch bill into the mud, the woodcock can feel, with the highly sensitive tip, the earthworms upon which it feeds.

Ques.: Is there any effective way to get rid of skunk odor on skin and clothes?

Ans.: Rubbing lemon juice over contaminated areas is a simple remedy recommended by outdoorsmen.

Ques.: Is it true that the tree toad can change color like a chameleon?

Ans.: Yes, the tree toad is quite adept at changing its color to blend with tree bark or the bright green of new leaves.

Ques.: What are the possibilities of introducing roe deer to the forests of the United States and more specifically, to forests of our state? Also, the possibilities of introducing the western mule deer to our Virginia Forests?

Ans.: It might be possible to introduce the roe deer, but there would be no advantage, since the white-tailed deer is best adapted to the habitat conditions of Virginia. The mule deer is an upland and mountain species which inhabits generally higher altitudes than we have in Virginia.

Ques.: Does the monarch butterfly have any defense against birds?

Ans.: Yes, the great brown monarch butterfly secretes an acid fluid which is distasteful to birds.



"It's either a walleyed Bass or a Small-Mouth Trout."

Ques.: What is the heaviest bird in America?

Ans.: The trumpeter swan, with a maximum weight of 40 pounds is the heaviest flying bird in America, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Ques.: Is it true that the mackerel has a different swimming apparatus than other fish?

Ans.: Yes, unlike most fish, the mackerel has no air bladder to give it buoyancy. Strong muscles along his spinal column enable him to tuck his fins in close to his body for maximum efficiency in swimming.

Ques.: How did goat-suckers get their peculiar name?

Ans.: A number of legends grew up about these birds in ancient times and it was believed that they sucked goats at night, after which the goats "dried up" and went blind.

Ques.: How many species of violets are there in North America?

Ans.: According to Ezra Brainard of the Vermont Agricultural Station, there are 75 species of North American violets found north of Mexico and, since many of them hybridize freely, identification is apt to be very difficult.

Ques.: What is the distribution of the woodchuck in Virginia?

Ans.: The woodchuck, or groundhog, is common throughout the state except in the southeastern counties. It is rare or absent from counties east of Brunswick and Prince George and most common in the mountains.

Ques.: What is the best way to prepare trout for the table?

Ans.: This is purely a matter of individual taste. Many sportsmen prefer to broil trout in the oven or over an open fire, since this retains the delicate flavor of the fish. Baking in aluminum foil is also a good method. Frying in peanut oil is recommended for small native trout and they may be dipped in pancake batter or meal before frying. Trout to be savored at their best should be eaten fresh.

Ques.: How can I distinguish the common poisonous mushroom which is called the "destroying angel?"

Ans.: This tall stately mushroom, the most poisonous mushroom known, is an *Amanita*. It has a frill or ring around the upper part and a bag at the bottom. It almost always grows in the immediate neighborhood of trees and occasionally is found on lawns. The white variety, *Amanita virosa* is particularly common at the entrance to wooded areas. It is especially insidious since symptoms of poisoning do not appear until very late. It is advisable to consult an illustrated mushroom handbook for pictures and detailed descriptions of this and other poisonous as well as edible mushrooms.

Ques.: Is it known how many big-game animals there are in the United States?

Ans.: The National Wildlife Federation estimates that there are nearly six million big game animals in the United States.



TROUT



RAINBOW

BROOK



VIRGINIA'S
TWO TROUT
HATCHERIES

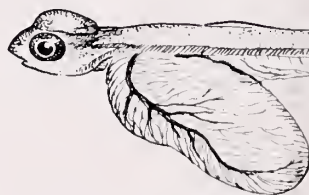
PRODUCE SOME 350,000
LARGE TROUT A YEAR.

THE BROOK TROUT
HAS WORM-LIKE MARKS
ON ITS BACK. THE RAIN-
BOW DISPLAYS A PINK SIDE.



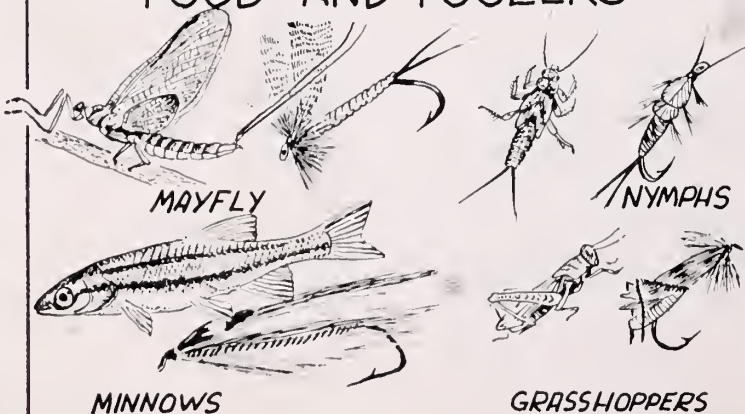
SUCKERS
MAY HARM
GOOD
TROUT
STREAMS

DEVELOPMENT OF A TROUT



EYED EGGS → SAC FRY → FINGERLING

FOOD AND FOOLERS



THERE IS
MORE TO
TROUT FISHING
THAN CATCHING
FISH!